Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1961

VOLUME 82 NUMBER 24

CONTENTS

(Continued on following page)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

CONTENTS (Continued)

ooOoo

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS reports weekly on foreign crop and livestock production, consumption, prices, supplies, and trade. It is distributed free to persons in the United States who request it. If you no longer need this publication, please tear off the name-and-address imprint, write "Drop" on it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

ITALY'S TOBACCO EXPORTS RISE SHARPLY

Italian leaf tobacco exports were appreciably larger in 1960 than in 1959.

Shipments last year, at 29.5 million pounds, were 14 percent larger than in the year before. West Germany, a partner in the Common Market, took 14.8 million pounds of Italian tobacco in 1960--about half the total and nearly double 1958 purchases. The Netherlands, the United States, and Switzerland also were important markets last year.

Most Italian leaf exports consist of burley, oriental, and flue-cured tobaccos. Average export prices (In U.S. cents per pound) paid by specific countries for Italian tobacco in 1960 were: West Germany, 50.6; the Netherlands, 48.4; the United States, 64.5; and Switzerland, 62.8.

TOBACCO, LEAF: Italy, exports by country of destination, 1958-60

Destination	1958	1959	1960
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Germany, West	7,792	10,733	14,822
Netherlands	3,563	3,154	3,589
United States	3,821	2,083	3,463
Switzerland	2,899	4,290	1,942
Others	7,834	5,675	5,776
Total	25,909	25,935	29,592

Source: Central Institute of Statistics.

WEST GERMANY REDUCES BLENDING REQUIREMENT FOR SMOKING TOBACCO

West Germany recently modified the blending requirement for domestic leaf used in fine-cut smoking tobacco.

The blending percentage for domestic leaf was reduced from 50 to 25 percent on March 1 to qualify the tobacco for preferential excise taxation. The amendment of the law stipulates that the Minister of Finance may revise the blending requirement within a lower limit of 15 percent and an upper limit of 35 percent, in accordance with available supplies of domestic leaf.

The amendment was made largely because of the sharply reduced 1960 crop following severe damage from blue mold.

IMPORTS OF LEAF TOBACCO UP SHARPLY IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela's imports of leaf tobacco totaled about 2.7 million pounds in 1960, compared with only 0.5 million in 1959.

The rise followed an agreement by the Venezuelan Government to permit stepped-up purchases of tobacco by local manufacturers from September 1959 through September 1961. At the time the agreement was announced, steps were taken to curtail gradually the importation of foreign-made cigarettes, and to prohibit their purchase entirely after March 31, 1960.

The United States supplied about 2.4 million pounds of tobacco to Venezuela in 1960--mainly flue-cured and burley. (The figure also probably includes bulk smoking tobacco from the United States.) Other sources last year, besides the United States, included Turkey, Greece, Colombia, and Italy.

SYRIAN CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION RISES

Syrians smoked more factory-made cigarettes last year than in 1959.

Consumption of cigarettes, at 4.9 million pounds, was 10.5 percent larger than in 1959. Syrian smokers also used more cut tobacco in "roll-your-own" cigarettes in 1960, but consumption of cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, and snuff was insignificant.

Practically all leaf tobacco used in Syria's factories in 1960 was grown in the area. Of the nearly 8 million pounds utilized, only about 400,000 consisted of imported tobacco.

DUTCH CIGAR EXPORTS UP AGAIN

The Netherlands, leading cigar exporter of the world, enjoyed a rise in export sales last year.

Shipments at 129.8 million pieces, were 11 percent larger than in 1959. Belgium-Luxembourg, as usual, provided the largest foreign market for Dutch cigars in 1960, taking 81 million pieces--62 percent of the total. Other major outlets, in order of importance, were: Sweden, 6.5 million pieces; Australia, 4.8 million; the United Kingdom, 4.2 million; France, 4.0 million; Denmark, 3.5 million; and Norway, 3.3 million.

Exports of cigarillos also were larger last year--totaling 153.9 million pieces, compared with 137.3 million in 1959. Largest markets for cigarillos included Belgium-Luxembourg, 39.2 million pieces; Sweden, 21.2 million; Republic of South Africa, 19.3 million; and Australia, 18.4 million.

The total value of Dutch exports of cigars and cigarillos in 1960 was equivalent to U.S. $7.8 million.

MEXICO SHIPS MORE STRAWBERRIES TO U.S. AND CANADA

The United States and Canada purchased an estimated 29.1 million pounds of Mexican frozen strawberries from January 1 through May 31, compared with 18.7 million in the same period of 1960. Total imports in calendar year 1960 were 28.3 million pounds.

Shipments to the United States during the last half of May in 1961 dropped sharply to 2.0 million pounds while exports to Canada were down to 60,000. These shipments, however, brought estimated 5-month total exports to the United States to 26.4 million pounds and 2.7 million to Canada. Australia purchased about 400,000 pounds.

The 1961 Mexican season is reported to be earlier than last year.

YUGOSLAVIA RAISES SUPPORT PRICE FOR 1961-CROP WHEAT

Yugoslavia's guaranteed minimum producer price for 1961-crop wheat will be 38 dinars per kilogram ($1.38 per bushel).

This figure is 2 dinars per kilogram (7 cents per bushel) above the 1960-crop price. Support prices of other grains were left unchanged. (Conversions were made at the exchange rate of 750 dinars=$1.00.)

GRAINS: Yugoslavia, support prices, 1961-crop

Grain	Guaranteed minimum price		Required weight		Maximum permitted percentage	
	Dinars per kilogram	U.S. dollars per bushel	Kilograms per hectoliter	Pounds per bushel	Foreign grains and impurities	Moisture
Wheat	38	1.38	76	59.1	2	13
Rye	33	1.12	70	54.4	2	13
Barley	31	.90	60	46.6	2	13
Oats	31	.60	43	33.4	2	14
Corn	31	1.05	--	---	2	14

The above prices apply only to grains grown on farms operated or controlled by the "socialist sector." Included are (a) farms controlled by peasant work and general agricultural cooperatives, (b) farms operated by peasants who enter into production agreements with these cooperatives, and (c) state farms.

Grain-buying organizations are required to pay the aforementioned prices or better. Market prices are free to rise and fluctuate above the respective support levels in response to competition between the organizations.

Farmers who grow and market grains independently of the socialist sector do so at their own risk insofar as prices are concerned. Normally, the prices they receive are the support prices less a handling charge of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ dinars per kilogram, which is retained by the purchasing cooperative. Farmers in the socialist sector are not subject to this deduction.

A minimum of 3 dinars per kilogram (10.9 U.S. cents per bushel) is paid only to organizations and farms in the socialist sector for wheat taken over by the Federal Food Administration.

JAMAICA TO REQUIRE LICENSES FOR PORK IMPORTS

The Jamaican Trade Board now requires specific import licenses for pork and all types of pork products, including pickled, smoked, and canned products, originating in, and consigned from, sources other than the West Indies.

The United States exported $441,000 worth of pork products and $12,000 worth of fresh and frozen pork to Jamaica in 1960.

According to a recent news item, a cold storage and meat processing plant in Jamaica has been expanded. This extension is expected to increase pork production and eventually eliminate the need for pork imports.

LARGE ITALIAN ALMOND CROP FORECAST

The 1961 commercial almond crop in Italy may amount to 60,000 short tons, shelled basis according to preliminary estimates.

This quantity would be the biggest harvest since 1929, exceeding the exceptionally large 1957 and 1959 crops of 53,000 and 52,000 tons, respectively. Average production from 1954 through 1958 is 27,200 tons.

Weather has been ideal this year, and the almond trees were in a favorable condition following last year's very light crop of only 13,000 tons.

Stocks on September 1, 1961, are not expected to exceed 3,000 tons shelled, in the opinion of the Italian trade. In any event, stocks will be sharply lower than the 16,000 tons carried in on September 1, 1960.

Exports of Italian almonds may total about 17,000 tons, shelled, for the 1960-61 season, a much smaller volume than the 30,900-ton exports in 1959-60.

Prices were firm during May. End-of-May f.o.b. quotations were 42.6 and 42.3 cents per pound for Bari and P.G. kernels, respectively.

WEST GERMANY IMPORTS LESS SOYBEANS

West German imports of soybeans from October 1960 through February 1961 were down about 1 million bushels from the similar period of 1959-60.

z

Imports from Communist China fell sharply and more than offset increased takings from the United States--up 3 million bushels from the previous year.

About four-fifths of West German imports of 36.7 million bushels in calendar year 1960 were from the United States. All soybean imports are crushed for edible oil and protein meal. Practically all of the oil is used domestically for the production of margarine while the major proportion of the soybean meal produced is used in mixed feeds or fed directly to livestock. About one-fourth of the meal is exported to other European countries.

West Germany also imports some soybean oil and meal, and the United States is the major supplier of these products.

SOYBEANS: West Germany, total imports and imports from the U.S. and Communist China, October-February, 1959-60 and 1960-61

Months	1959-60			1960-61		
	U.S.	China	Total	U.S.	China	Total
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
October	1,870	428	2,298	2,665	9	2,696
November	2,701	748	3,471	3,710	89	3,799
December	4,665	578	5,243	4,101	---	4,284
January	3,682	1,351	5,033	4,943	243	5,208
February	2,026	1,672	3,698	2,552	199	2,751
Total	14,944	4,777	19,743	17,971	540	18,738

Compiled from official and other sources.

PAKISTAN'S VANASPATI OUTPUT AT RECORD HIGH

Pakistan's production of vanaspati (hydrogenated vegetable oil) in 1960 rose to 34,260 long tons--one-fourth larger than the 27,060 produced in 1959 and an alltime high.

The increase was possible because of larger imports of cottonseed and soybean oil from the United States under Title I Public Law 480. Domestic production of cottonseed and cottonseed oil has not varied greatly over a number of years. (For more detailed information cocerning Pakistan's vegetable oil production and consumption, see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 13, and May 22, 1961.)

U. K. TO REMOVE DUTIES ON DANISH BACON

The United Kingdom will remove duties on imports of Danish bacon and canned pork luncheon meats on July 1.

This move is part of the second round of duty reductions between member countries of the European Free Trade Association. The U.K. duty is 5-percent ad valorem on Danish bacon and 2-1/2 percent on luncheon meats.

The United States does not export pork to the United Kingdom because it is difficult to make proper certification. U.S. canned meats and cooked pork can not enter the United Kingdom because of dollar restrictions.

WOOL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE INCREASED IN AUSTRALIA

The estimate for 1960-61 Australian wool production has been raised from 1,600 million pounds to 1,616 million.

The 1-percent increase will constitute about 46,000 more bales available for sale this season than expected.

U.S. TALLOW AND GREASE EXPORTS DECLINE

U.S. exports of tallow and grease from January through March fell 10 percent from the similar period of 1960.

Most of the decline was in the large markets of Western Europe--Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium-Luxembourg, and France. Exports to Poland and Iran dropped substantially. Cuba has not been a market this year.

A large export gain to Japan helped greatly to soften the impact of the big losses in Western Europe and Cuba. Spain and the Republic of South Africa (formerly the Union of South Africa) also increased their imports substantially.

A rising price trend for U.S. tallow and grease that began late in 1960 is the major factor causing this export drop. A slight reduction in output during late 1960 and early 1961 and the strong export demand were underlying reasons for the price rise.

INEDIBLE TALLOW AND GREASES 1/: U.S. exports, by country of destination average 1951-55, annual 1959-60 and January-March 1960-61

Continent and country	Average 1951-55	1959 2/	1960 2/	January-March 1960 2/	January-March 1961 2/	Increase(+) or decrease(-) 1961
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
North America:						
Canada	23,782	21,203	21,255	4,658	5,081	423
Mexico	43,659	15,743	9,585	1,710	1,247	-463
El Salvador	3,842	2,522	7,627	2,708	994	-1,714
Guatemala	3,693	8,249	11,443	2,537	3,414	877
Cuba	30,356	36,125	18,418	7,546	---	-7,546
Dominican Republic	3,709	5,644	5,537	1,636	1,010	-626
Other	6,623	9,171	15,158	3,171	3,156	-15
Total	115,664	98,657	89,023	23,966	14,902	-9,064
South America:						
Chile	6,097	2,085	215	67	115	48
Colombia	15,140	23,514	26,089	5,609	5,127	-482
Ecuador	6,124	9,387	16,849	3,332	5,338	2,006
Peru	9,769	8,751	9,029	871	2,410	1,539
Other	4,574	11,700	13,589	2,796	2,155	-641
Total	41,704	55,437	65,771	12,675	15,145	2,470
Europe:						
Austria	6,897	3,122	361	336	---	-336
Belgium-Luxembourg	61,071	46,188	38,170	16,431	3,020	-13,411
France	10,913	14,710	28,463	16,161	75	-16,086
Germany, West	87,515	81,886	103,818	24,734	26,014	1,280
Ireland	6,126	1,771	60	---	56	56
Italy	137,080	292,856	282,586	78,253	41,944	-36,309
Netherlands	139,534	265,500	261,714	93,394	43,100	-50,294
Norway	3,346	1,281	1,867	1,274	328	-946
Spain	3/ 1,741	9,957	45,656	8,229	16,956	8,727
Switzerland	33,485	12,427	6,588	959	1,507	548
United Kingdom	10,973	15,579	40,041	8,322	7,829	-493
Poland	4/ 5,694	52,577	43,422	19,608	10,884	-8,724
Yugoslavia	19,053	17,054	18,347	4,463	3,541	-922
Other	8,838	10,121	13,339	3,911	6,160	2,249
Total	532,266	825,029	884,432	276,075	161,414	-114,661
Africa:						
Egypt	34,408	49,806	61,259	8,509	11,022	2,513
Rhodesia-Nyasaland	4,740	654	2,234	2	560	558
Republic of So. Africa	52,211	48,252	67,337	11,624	17,112	5,488
Other	4,593	15,522	5/ 28,927	5,510	4,053	-1,457
Total	95,952	114,234	159,757	25,645	32,747	7,102
Asia:						
China, Taiwan	15,434	28,194	20,354	5,123	6,160	1,037
Iran	3/ 3,826	29,586	22,584	9,661	3,023	-6,638
Japan	161,025	263,852	379,188	89,440	128,163	38,723
Korea	9,283	19,207	24,095	7,859	3,214	-4,645
Philippines	11,104	15,508	18,130	3,891	5,166	1,275
Other	9,116	14,570	6/ 41,629	2,601	8,918	6,317
Total	209,788	370,917	505,980	118,575	154,644	36,069
Total world	995,376	1,464,274	1,704,963	456,936	7/ 411,933	-45,003

1/ Includes inedible tallow, animal greases and fats, animal oils, n.e.s., oleic acid or red oil and stearic acid. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ 1955 only. 4/ Less than a 5-year average. 5/ Includes 21.9 million pounds to Morocco. 6/ Includes 30.8 million pounds to Pakistan. 7/ Includes 33.1 million pounds to U.S.S.R.

Bureau of the Census.

COLOMBIAN WOOL IMPORTS EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Colombia's wool imports are expected to rise from an estimated 10.2 million pounds in 1961 to 13.6 million in 1965.

The projection is based on a survey of the 4 principal wool-using organizations in the country, which together account for more than half of annual consumption. The survey was made recently by the Colombian Government to ascertain future wool import needs and determine subsequent wool policies. A reduction in the cost of imports and an increase in domestic output will be primary objectives of future policies.

The principal method suggested for reduction of wool expenditures is to change the present type of wool imports from tops to raw wool. This change could be implemented by expansion of washing and cleaning facilities.

The Colombian Government estimated that the cost of wool imports would be reduced from 11.5 million dollars in 1961 to 5.8 million in 1965, despite the increase in quantity.

Colombia is particularly short on fine wool production. Last year the government led an effort to increase output. Experience, however, indicates that fine wool production will be difficult. Rapid increases are not expected.

U.S. LARD EXPORTS DROP SHARPLY

U.S. lard exports in the first 3 months of 1961 were 114 million pounds--60 million below the same period of 1960.

Shipments of 61 million pounds to the United Kingdom were 41 million below those of the first quarter of 1960. Increased prices encouraged the United Kingdom to purchase lard from other countries and substitute other fats and oils.

Exports to Cuba in the first 3 months of 1961 were 31 million pounds--39 percent less than in January-March 1960. Shipments to West Germany and Canada were more than double those of the first quarter of 1960.

Larger hog numbers and increased slaughter in most European countries, together with loss of the Cuban market, caused exports to average lower in the first quarter of 1961 than in the similar period of 1960. Increased production should make lard more competitive on the world market, and exports are expected to be higher during summer and fall months.

LARD (INCLUDING RENDERED PORK FAT): U.S. exports by country of destination, average 1951-55, annual 1959-60, and January-March 1960-61

Destination	Average 1951-55	1959	1960 1/	January-March 1960 1/	January-March 1961 1/	Increase(+)or decrease(-) 1961
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
North America:						
Canada	6,497	4,096	21,159	1,873	5,524	3,651
Mexico	31,823	10,543	9,483	2,839	3,041	202
Panama Canal Zone	967	155	111	91	81	-10
Costa Rica	7,363	5,281	4,338	1,849	43	-1,806
El Salvador	4,299	2,640	3,037	1,217	267	-950
Guatemala	8,668	8,040	2,807	1,919	33	-1,886
Panama	6,560	4,787	2,888	938	794	-144
Cuba	157,427	217,083	190,401	50,973	31,251	-19,722
Haiti	6,725	7,652	7,691	2,467	1,806	-661
Netherlands (Antilles)	1,066	509	363	77	60	-17
Other	1,870	1,745	1,913	479	316	-163
Total	233,265	262,531	244,191	64,722	43,216	-21,506
South America:						
Bolivia	3,755	6,252	3,129	1,607	918	-689
Brazil	2,088	55	62	19	68	49
Colombia	3,359	26	118	15	19	4
Ecuador	5,494	19	---	---	4	4
Peru	12,521	4,765	1,309	494	384	-110
Venezuela	3,640	609	490	220	45	-175
Other	134	1,934	1,169	474	598	124
Total	30,991	13,660	6,277	2,829	2,036	-793
Europe:						
Austria	23,579	22	---	45	---	-45
France	1,104	106	280	280	---	-280
Germany, West	55,978	39,940	15,808	3,078	7,214	4,136
Netherlands	33,114	1,547	688	660	---	-660
United Kingdom	124,685	274,603	348,512	101,791	60,937	-40,854
Yugoslavia	38,431	7,832	2	---	---	---
Other	8,162	878	648	263	421	158
Total	285,053	324,928	365,938	106,117	68,572	-37,545
Asia	5,197	3,043	3,488	891	527	-364
Other	130	---	115	7	6	-1
World total	554,636	604,162	620,009	174,566	114,357	-60,209

1/ Preliminary.

Bureau of the Census.

MORE AUSTRALIAN BEEF
EN ROUTE TO U.S.

Four ships left Australia between May 8 and 19 with 9,235,520 pounds of frozen beef for the United States.

Ship	Sailing date	Destination 1/	Quantity
			Pounds
Oriana	May 8	Los Angeles	181,440
		San Francisco	571,200
Arabian Reefer	do. 14	New York	4,928,000
		Philadelphia	1,310,400
		Boston	730,240
Anna Bakke	do. 18	Los Angeles	221,760
		San Francisco	56,000
		Seattle	239,680
Sierra	do. 19	Los Angeles	687,680
		San Francisco	208,320
		Seattle	100,800

1/ Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but the meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

The Mariposa, which sailed April 29 (Foreign Crops and Markets, May 29, 1961), loaded an additional 89,600 pounds for San Francisco.

BRAZIL INCREASES EXPORTS
OF OILSEED MEALS

Oilseed cake and meal exports from Brazil increased sharply in 1960 from the year before, and a further marked rise in exports is forecast for 1961.

Domestic production of oilseeds--principally cottonseed, peanuts, and soybeans--has expanded in recent years and the resultant increase in oilseed meal output has been diverted largely into export channels. Production of oilseed meal rose 158,000 tons in 1960, and a rise of 121,000 is forecast for this year. Local consumption of oilseed meals, mostly for livestock feeding and fertilizer, is increasing but at a much slower rate than production. The meal from castorseed is usually too toxic for livestock feed and consequently is used mostly for fertilizer.

Brazil is trying to expand agricultural production to eliminate food shortages and at the same time encourage exports of agricultural products.

An expansion in oilseed production has increased the supply of edible oils and oilseed meals. The oil is readily consumed domestically but the large outturn of meal is exported to foreign markets. The livestock industry has experienced a series of setbacks and, although production is expected to increase in 1961, high retail prices for meat with a resultant limited consumption will tend to restrict domestic use of oilseed meal in the next few years.

OILSEED CAKE AND MEAL: Brazil's supply and distribution, annual 1959 and 1960, and forecast 1961 1/

Item	1959	1960	Forecast 1961
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
Supply:			
Stocks, January 1	71	46	45
Production	595	753	874
Total supply	666	799	919
Distribution:			
Exports	96	163	260
Consumption:			
Feed 2/	390	455	480
Fertilizer 3/	134	136	141
Stocks, December 31	46	45	38
Total distribution	666	799	919

1/ All figures rounded to nearest thousand. 2/ Includes small quantity used for food. 3/ Mostly castorseed meal.

Compiled from official and other sources.

MEXICAN TRADE IN MINOR FIBERS DOWN

Mexican exports of minor vegetable fibers fell from 6,308,000 pounds in 1959 to 6,053,000 in 1960, and imports fell from 4,035,000 to 2,124,000.

Total exports were down mainly because of lower broomroot and brush fibers, but coir and sansvieria rose. Changes in exports followed generally corresponding changes in production, except for kenaf, which increased in production but fell in exports. Most of the production of sansevieria and broomcorn are used domestically, but large proportions of the other fibers are exported.

The large decrease in jute imports left stocks low and prices high at the end of the year. If the supply of jute continues scarce, substitution of domestic istle and other fibers will be necessary.

(Continued on following page)

MINOR VEGETABLE FIBERS: Mexican exports and imports
1959 and preliminary 1960

Fiber and destination	Exports 1959	Exports 1960
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Broomroot fiber:		
United States	2,853	494
Netherlands	935	2,914
Germany, West	340	509
France	514	216
Others	303	419
Total	4,945	4,552
Sansevieria 1/	13	66
Abaca 1/	0	132
Kenaf:		
United States	608	82
United Kingdom	0	412
Total	608	494

Fiber and destination	Exports 1959	Exports 1960
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Broomcorn and other brush fibers 1/	608	0
Coir:		
United States	101	705
Germany West	0	60
Others	0	44
Total	101	809
Other fibers:		
United States	22	0
Sweden	11	0
Total	33	0
Total exports	6,308	6,053

Origin	Imports 1959	Imports 1960
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Palm fibers:		
United States	31	13
India	146	124
West Africa	130	66
Others	2	0
Total	309	203
Jute:		
United States	690	1,049
Pakistan	2,487	642
Others	540	223
Total	3,717	1,914
Other fibers	9	7
Total imports	4,035	2,124

1/ All to the United States.

Compiled from official sources in Mexico.

GREEK CURRANT EXPORTS RISE; RAISINS AND DRIED FIGS FALL

Greek exports of dried currants from September 1, 1960, through April 30, 1961, totaled 58,600 short tons, compared with 52,500 during the similar period of 1959-60.

Total 1960-61 exports may reach about 75,000 tons, or about 8,000 above 1959-60 exports. Dried currant production has been estimated at 104,000 tons in 1960 and 89,000 in 1959.

Stocks of exportable grades on April 30, 1961, were estimated close to 24,000 tons; but it is doubtful whether this entire amount will be exported by the end of August.

Early prospects for the 1961 currant crop are favorable, and only small-scale hail damages were reported from southwestern Peloponnesus.

Greek exports of raisins during the 1960-61 season through April 30, totaled 22,100 tons, compared with 40,100 during the corresponding period of 1959-60. Total exports for the 1959-60 season were about 56,000 tons. Exports for the entire 1960-61 season are not expected to exceed 24,000 tons because stocks of exportable grades on April 30 were estimated at about 3,000 tons.

Present prospects for the 1961 raisin crop are favorable. Greek production was 28,500 and 69,000 tons in 1960 and 1959, respectively.

Exports of Greek dried figs during the 1960-61 marketing season, through April 30, amounted to 14,400 tons, compared with 16,400 during the corresponding period of 1959-60. The estimate of the 1960 dried fig pack is 27,000 tons--down slightly from the 28,000-ton 1959 pack.

FRENCH GLACE CHERRY PACK FORECAST SLIGHTLY BELOW 1960

The 1961 pack of French glace cherries is forecast at 14,500 short tons--down 1,000 from the previous year and 2,000 below the 16,500-ton 1959 pack.

France's production of all types of cherries is not expected to exceed 77,000 tons--down 22 percent from the revised 1960 estimate of 99,000 tons. This year's lower production is a result of late frosts in the major producing areas. The Bigarreaux crop, which was hardest hit, is estimated at 11,000 tons, compared with 20,000 in 1960. Other varieties farther north suffered less losses from the cold. The quality of the 1961 crop is reportedly somewhat below 1960.

In view of the short Bigarreaux cherry crop this year, France will probably import cherries to help meet requirements of the glace industry.

Italy is most likely to be the major supplier. Imports were small in 1960 and 1959, totaling 774 and 272 tons, respectively.

French exports of glace cherries during the 1960 marketing year are expected to reach about 12,000 tons; from August 1, 1960, through April 30, 1961, exports totaled 10,840 tons. In the 1959 and 1958 marketing years, 13,532 and 11,960 tons, respectively, were exported. The United Kingdom and the United States continue to be the most important markets. However, exports to the United States during the 1960 season are below those of recent years.

Prices of glace cherries exported to the United States and Canada in 1960 averaged between $27\frac{1}{4}$ and 29 cents per pound, c.i.f. New York. Prices during 1961 are not expected to vary greatly from those of 1960.

CANDIED FRUIT 1/: France, exports of candied fruit, fruit peels, and parts of plants (drained, glace, crystalized) marketing years 1957-60

Destination	Year beginning August 1			
	1957	1958	1959	1960 2/
	- - Short tons - -			
Algeria	223	223	223	201
Belgium-Luxembourg	110	112	126	121
Canada	161	505	721	481
Germany, West	48	42	206	151
Ireland	248	146	184	153
South Africa	281	281	333	278
Switzerland	159	156	199	186
United Kingdom	7,937	6,967	7,178	6,767
United States	2,805	3,030	3,816	1,788
Others	552	498	546	714
Total	12,524	11,960	13,532	10,840

1/ Almost entirely glace cherries. 2/ Nine months, August 1, 1960, through April 30, 1961.

INDIAN GINGER PRODUCTION UP

The 1960-61 crop of ginger in India has been estimated at 16,600 metric tons--up 7.9 percent from the 15,440 of 1959-60.

The area planted to ginger has risen in the past year from 41,000 acres to 43,600. Kerala, the main ginger-producing state, and West Bengal accounted for the main increase in both area and production last year.

CANADIAN WHEAT PROSPECTS BRIGHT

Recent improved moisture conditions across the Canadian prairies have resulted in renewed optimism for the 1961 grain crop.

Seeding has been generally late because of cold, damp weather but with the advent of warm, dry weather in late May progress was rapid and wheat seeding was nearing completion over much of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In parts of northeastern Saskatchewan and in Manitoba many farmers have delayed seeding to gain control of wild oats.

Soil mositure reserves remain low over most of Saskatchewan and a good part of Alberta and Manitoba, and timely rains will be needed throughout the season to support growth.

Early seeded grain germinated evenly and is off to a good start. If timely rains occur during the next 2 months, Canada could harvest another above-average wheat crop.

FRENCH COTTON CONSUMPTION UP; IMPORTS DECLINE

Cotton consumption in France is continuing at the high rate of recent years in response to the strong demand for textiles in domestic and export markets. However, imports of raw cotton thus far in the 1960-61 season are considerably smaller than a year ago.

Consumption from August 1960 through February 1961 totaled 810,000 bales (500 pounds gross)--3 percent above the 789,000 bales used in the corresponding period a year earlier. Mill activity in France is expected to remain at a relatively high level throughout this season to fill the large volume of orders on hand. Maintenance of the present rate of manufacture, while somewhat below last fall's peak, will result in total consumption for the season somewhat larger than last season's near postwar record of 1,365,000 bales.

Despite the healthy rate of consumption, French imports of cotton during August-February fell to 801,000 bales--12 percent below the 906,000 imported in the same 1959-60 period. Imports of U.S. cotton in the period under review amounted to 362,000 bales or 45 percent of the total, compared with 350,000 bales or 39 percent of the intake in the first 7 months last season. Other countries from which larger supplies were received this season include the U.S.S.R., Iran, and Mexico, while substantially smaller quantities were imported from French Africa, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Sudan, and Syria.

Quantities imported from major sources other than the United States in August-February 1960-61, with comparable 1959-60 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 105,000 bales (89,000); former French colonies 63,000 (124,000);

Syria 46,000 (86,000); U.S.S.R. 29,000 (5,000); Egypt 28,000 (40,000); Iran 25,000 (19,000); Brazil 25,000 (23,000); Peru 23,000 (24,000); and Sudan 17,000 (49,000).

Cotton stocks at the end of February were estimated at 381,000 bales--down slightly from beginning stocks of 390,000 bales on August 1, 1960. Mills generally have covered their raw cotton requirements through the remainder of this season. With the current low level of market activity, some further decline in stocks can be expected by the end of the season. Imports during August and September, however, are likely to increase substantially, especially from the United States, because recent interest has centered on purchases of U.S. current-crop cotton for shipment after the higher export payment rate begins on August 1.

The general upward trend in cotton prices on the French market, which began over a year and a half ago, has continued in recent months. Price increases of 1 to 2 cents a pound in France, as elsewhere, have resulted from a strong demand for cotton goods and a relatively close balance between world cotton supplies and requirements. The preference for U.S. cotton at competitive prices is reflected in larger imports this season. French port average offering prices for specified growths and qualities, prompt shipment, for August 1960 and May 1961, are shown in the following table:

Country	Quality	U.S. cents per pound	
		August 1960	May 1961
United States	SM 1"	29.10	31.25
do.	SM 1-1/16"	31.10	32.96
Mexico	SM 1-1/16"	29.94	31.66
Pakistan	289 F (M 1")	31.05	32.98
Nicaragua	SM 1-1/16"	28.78	29.96

ECUADOR TO PRODUCE SOLUBLE COFFEE

Ecuador expects to start production of soluble coffee in July, and exporters of this product have been authorized to sell the exchange obtained from their exports on the free market.

About 85 percent of the first year's output has already been sold locally. It is doubtful whether any exports will be made during the first 2 years of production.

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS SMALLER IN APRIL

U.S. exports of all types of cotton totaled 584,000 running bales in April--31 percent below the 842,000 bales shipped in March and 13 percent under the April 1960 figure of 669,000 bales.

Exports during the first three-quarters (August-April) of the current season reached 5,697,000 bales--215,000 bales, or 4 percent, above shipments of 5,482,000 in the first 9 months of 1959-60. Exports through April this season were also substantially ahead of the 5-year average of 3,886,000 bales for this period. The smaller volume, however, is expected to continue during the 3 remaining months, leaving total exports for the season at about 6.5 million bales, compared with 7.2 million last season.

Comparable figures in 500-pound gross weight bales, and destinations of the August-April 1960-61 exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets when available.

UGANDA COTTON CROP UP SLIGHTLY

Cotton production in Uganda from August 1960 through July 1961 will be slightly larger than the 300,000 bales (500 pounds gross) grown in 1959-60, according to government reports.

Practically complete ginning and sales reports show that a substantial drop in production in Buganda and the Eastern province from last season will be more than offset by larger outturns in the Northern province, especially in the Lango area.

Early reports indicate a considerable drop in cotton plantings through April this year in the Eastern and Northern provinces. The 1961-62 crop in Uganda, however, is expected to show some increase from this season's outturn of just over 300,000 bales. The amount of the increase under government encouragement is likely to depend largely on the weather and control of insects, because shifts in acreage from coffee to cotton are expected to be moderate.

SPANISH FILBERT CROP DOWN

The 1961 commercial filbert crop in Spain is forecast at 14,000 short tons, unshelled basis.

This forecast is well below last year's production of 21,500 tons and also below the 15,200-ton average from 1954 through 1958.

The set of gruit this spring was light to begin with, and in late April winds of almost hurricane force damaged blossoms and small fruit in the Tarragona area.

Spanish exports thus far in 1960-61 have been exceptionally heavy, and for the entire season they may total 21,000 tons, unshelled basis--the largest in many years. Heavy Spanish supplies coincided with short Turkish supplies in 1960-61. In 1959-60 Spain exported only 3,600 tons, unshelled equivalent.

Stocks on September 1, 1961, are expected to be only 5,500 tons, unshelled--much smaller than the 12,500 tons a year earlier.

Spanish filbert prices were strong during May. In late May, 1960-crop Barcelona and Tarraprima kernels were quoted at 57.4 cents per pound, f.o.b. Spain.

MEXICAN SUPPLY OF FATS AND OILS EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Mexico's supply of fats and oils for edible use and soapmaking is expected to be larger in 1961 than a year earlier because of the anticipated increases in domestic production and imports. Beginning stocks have declined in the last 2 years.

EDIBLE AND SOAPMAKING FATS AND OILS 1/: Mexico, estimated supply and distribution, annual 1959 and 1960, forecast 1961

Item	1959	1960 2/	1961 3/
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
Supply:			
Stocks, January 1	71.3	47.5	44.6
Production	360.9	370.5	397.0
Imports	10.9	10.4	17.4
Total supply	443.1	428.4	459.0
Distribution:			
Exports	4/	4/	4/
Domestic consumption	395.6	383.8	415.1
Stocks, December 31	47.5	44.6	43.9
Total distribution	443.1	428.4	459.0

1/ Includes fats and oils used for edible purposes and for soapmaking because an accurate breakdown on quantities of the various fats and oils used inter-changeably for these purposes is not available. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Forecast. 4/ Less than 50 tons.

Compiled from official and other sources.

Last year was characterized by reduced consumption and supplies, combined with a sharp increase in prices. Beginning stocks were low, and imports were at about the previous year's level due to restrictive government import policies.

In addition to reduced availabilities during 1960, a rapidly growing population and increased per capita income caused a general price rise. Normally, such an increase would have caused sharp rises in imports, thus reducing prices somewhat, but government restrictions prevented this.

High prices have encouraged producers to plan sizable oilseed acreage expansion during 1961. With favorable weather, production should rise considerably, allowing some increase in per capita consumption.

Limited supplies, high prices, and increased demand are expected to result in more import permits being issued in 1961. Most of the imports are expected to be cottonseed and soybean oils. However, imports in quantities that would tend to reduce domestic prices to world levels would be unpopular. Trade reports indicate that Mexico recently purchased about 10,000 tons of U.S. cottonseed oil.

Mexico's oilseed production in 1961 is forecast as follows, with 1960 production shown in parentheses (in thousand short tons): cottonseed, 793.7 (843.3); palm kernels, 23.9 (23.7); copra, 160.8 (146.2); peanuts, 88.2 (77.2); sesame seed, 154.3 (146.0); safflower seed, 55.1 (30.9); soybeans, 6.0 (5.5); rapeseed, 9.4 (8.8); olives, 3.4 (2.8); flaxseed, 33.0 (22.0); castor beans, 7.7 (6.6); and other oilseeds, 2.3 (1.7).

BRAZIL SETS MINIMUM PRICES FOR PEANUTS AND SOYBEANS

Brazil has set new minimum prices for peanuts and soybeans, as well as rice, corn and beans, as a first step to (a) encourage agricultural production and (b) assure an ample supply of food and feed.

By a decree issued April 5, the basic minimum price at the principal consumer centers for the 2 crops of peanuts that will be harvested in January-February and May-June of 1962 was established at cr $600 per 25-kilogram bag. This price is equivalent to U.S. $0.04 per pound at the free market rate of cr $275 to U.S. $1.00. By the same decree, the basic minimum price of soybeans that will be harvested during February-May 1962 was set at cr $900 per 60-kilogram bag ($1.48 per bushel). Guaranteed minimum prices for 1960-61 crops were cr $400 ($0.026) and cr $600 ($0.99), respectively.

Prices under the new decree also will apply to remaining stocks of 1960-61 agricultural commodities.

The general price level of oilseeds and fats and oils rose sharply during late 1959 and most of 1960. At the end of 1960 there was a leveling

off, and prices remained fairly stable or declined slightly. Wholesale prices for peanuts in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Porto Alegre rose from cr $303 per 25-kilogram bag ($0.02 per pound) in May 1960 to cr $500 ($0.03) in December and maintained the same level in March 1961. This price was one-fourth above the 1961-support level but one-sixth below the 1962-support level.

Soybean prices rose from cr $761 per 60-kilogram bag ($1.25 per bushel) in May 1960 to cr $1,000 ($1.65) in December 1960 and March 1961. Thus, cr $1,000, the market price was two-thirds above the 1961-support and 10 percent above the 1962-support price.

U.S. SOYBEAN AND OIL EXPORTS CONTINUE UP SHARPLY; COTTONSEED OIL AND OILCAKES DOWN

U.S. soybeans and soybean oil continued moving to foreign markets at a high level through April of the current marketing year. Exports of cottonseed oil, despite a sharp pickup in April, continued far below the quantity exported in the first 7 months of last year. With a further decline in April, cumulative exports of all oilcakes and meals also were down sharply from last year.

SOYBEANS, EDIBLE OILS, AND OILSEED CAKES AND MEALS: U.S. exports beginning October 1, 1958 and 1959; October-April 1959 and 1960

Item	Unit	1958-59	1959-60 1/	October-April	
				1959-60 1/	1960-61 1/
Soybeans..........	Million bushels	110.1	141.3	83.9	92.6
Oil equivalent...	Million bushels	1,208.6	1,551.1	921.2	1,016.5
Meal equivalent..	1,000 short tons	2,608.7	3,284.5	1,950.6	2,175.5
Edible oils:					
Soybean..........	Million pounds	930.4	952.8	365.3	422.6
Cottonseed.......	do.	404.2	503.3	388.8	258.0
Total.........	do.	1,334.6	1,456.1	754.1	680.6
Cakes and meals:					
Soybean..........	1,000 short tons	512.2	648.7	441.9	359.6
Cottonseed.......	do.	27.3	140.2	122.6	36.6
Linseed..........	do.	31.2	62.6	48.7	26.2
Total 2/......		581.0	866.9	620.0	426.3

1/ Preliminary 2/ Includes peanut cake and meal and small quantities of other cakes and meals.

Bureau of the Census.

Soybean exports from October 1, 1960, through April 30, 1961, at a record 92.6 million bushels, were 10 percent larger than in the comparable months of last year. Demand continued strong, particularly from West Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and Canada.

Exports of edible oils (soybean and cottonseed) through April, at 680.6 million pounds, were almost 10 percent less than during the first 7 months a year earlier and one-fourth less than the record 916.3 million pounds shipped in October-April 1956-57. About one-half of the total moved out under Title I of Public Law 480 and one-half was dollar sales.

Although exports of cottonseed oil in April, at 66.7 million pounds, were the largest monthly shipment in the current year, the October-April total was one-third less than in the comparable months of last year. Soybean oil exports in April also rose sharply to 60.5 million pounds, the largest monthly volume since January. October-April shipments exceeded a year earlier by one-sixth. Heavy P.L. 480 sales to Spain, Greece, Poland, and Pakistan, plus sales of 27.5 million pounds in April to Spain for dollars, accounted primarily for the increase in soybean oil shipments.

Exports of oilseed cakes and meals in the first 7 months of 1960-61 were almost one-third less in volume than in 1959-60. Cottonseed cakes and meals were down 70 percent while soybean meal exports declined almost one-fifth.

ooOoo

NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Single copies free to persons in the United States from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., Room 5922. Phone DUdley 8-2445.

World Output of Dairy Products Up in 1960. Foreign Agriculture Circular FD 3-61. 6 pp.

World Lard Production and Trade, 1960. Foreign Agriculture Circular FLM 7-61. 8 pp.

Japan: Growing Market for U.S. Tobacco. Foreign Agriculture Circular FT 13-61. 9 pp.

Southern Hemisphere Wool Exports Down in 1960-61. Foreign Agriculture Circular FW 2-61. 4 pp.

World Hard Fibers Production Continues to Rise in 1960. Foreign Agriculture Circular FVF 3-61. 21 pp.

Analysis of Selected Varieties and Grades of Rice Moving in World Trade. Foreign Agricultural Service. Marketing Research Report No. 460. 40 pp.

(Continued on page 24)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Postage and Fees Paid

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(Continued from page 23)

Foreign Agriculture. Foreign Agricultural Service. 28 pp.

Foreign Agriculture: P.L. 480's Contribution to India's Economic Development. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 10 pp.

Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest of the United States. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 8pp.

Planning and Equipping the Milk Recombining Plant. Foreign Agricultural Service. FAS M-117. 11 pp.

Prospects for Foreign Trade in Oilseeds and Oilseed Products. Foreign Agricultural Service. 14 pp.

South Korea's Agricultural Economy. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 26. pp.